

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:

a retractor having a retracting sleeve for insertion into a wound opening and a distal portion including a portion of the retracting sleeve and a distal ring, the portion of the retracting sleeve being attached ~~substantially~~ continuously around the distal ring; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the distal portion such that the distal ring is located within a body cavity and the retracting sleeve lines the wound opening, the insertion tool including a groove configured to receive and hold the distal portion in an engaged position where the distal ring intersects a primary central longitudinal axis of the insertion tool, and the distal ring extends generally in a longitudinal direction with respect to the insertion tool.

2-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of flexible material.

7. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of elastomeric material.

8. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises an elongate member having a distal end.

9. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the distal end of the insertion tool has a cutting blade for penetrating the wound opening by piercing.

10-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises an enlarged proximal handle portion.

15. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool has a wound engaging portion with a width of from 3 to 35 mm.

16. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the width of the wound engaging portion is from 5 to 12 mm.

17. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wound retractor further comprises:

a proximal member for location externally of a wound opening;

the proximal member being movable to shorten an axial amount of the retracting sleeve between the proximal member and the distal ring to laterally retract a wound opening.

18. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises an annular ring assembly.

19. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the annular ring assembly comprises an inner ring and an outer ring, and the retracting sleeve extends between the inner ring and the outer ring.

20. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein one of the inner ring or outer ring defines a projection for location in a complimentary recess of the outer ring, with the retracting sleeve located therebetween.

21. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is a relatively tight fit in the recess to grip the retracting sleeve therebetween.

22. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is locatable in the recess in a snap-fit manner.

23. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the inner ring defines the projection and the outer ring defines the recess.

24. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the outer ring defines the projection and the inner ring defines the recess.

25. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises one or more valves to facilitate sealed access of an object through the proximal member.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring comprises an O-ring.

28. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring comprises an annular disc.

29. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of a resilient material.

30. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retracting sleeve is flared distally outwardly.

31. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retractor includes a seal assembly to seal the wound opening.

32. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the seal assembly is provided externally of the wound opening.

33. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the seal assembly is mountable to the proximal member.

34. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 33 wherein the forms a cap on the retractor.

35. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the seal assembly includes a valve to facilitate sealed access of an object through the seal assembly.

36. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the object comprises an instrument.

37-54. (Cancelled).

55. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-

a retractor having a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening,
wherein the retractor includes a distal portion; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the
distal portion through the wound opening, wherein the insertion tool includes a wound
opening engaging portion consisting essentially of a monolithic shaft,

the insertion tool further including a distal end portion including a retractor
receiving portion, the retractor receiving portion ~~including an opening facing distally~~
away from the insertion tool.

56. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 55, wherein the distal
portion comprises a distal ring member mounted to the retracting member.

57. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 55 wherein the distal
end portion is configured to penetrate the wound opening.

58. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-
a retractor having a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening,
wherein the retractor includes a distal portion including a distal ring; and
an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the
retracting member in the wound opening, wherein the insertion tool includes
a groove for receiving the distal portion to hold the distal portion in an
engaged position where the insertion tool engages the distal ring and the distal ring
extends generally in a longitudinal direction with respect to the insertion tool, and

a taper toward ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of the insertion tool in a plane normal to a plane formed by the distal ring when the distal ring is in the engaged position.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 55, wherein the retractor receiving portion includes a groove and the opening forms a part of the groove.